



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 29, 2014

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TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER POSITIONS NEW GRADUATES FOR OCCUPATIONAL SUCCESS

NASHVILLE, TN. — More than 60 trained and skilled students embarked on new journeys today, as they graduated from programs within the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna. These students – whose disabilities include traumatic brain injury, cognitive impairments and blindness – have received workplace and life management skills to enhance their chosen occupational paths.

Through classroom and hands-on training that ranges from auto maintenance to business education and from food service to building maintenance, the graduates have learned skills to prepare them for success in the workforce.

“We continue to be inspired by the successes of students that graduate from TRC programs,” said Tennessee Department of Human Services Commissioner Raquel Hatter. “We use this as momentum to develop programs and services that help position vocational rehabilitation clients into skilled and valuable additions to Tennessee’s workforce.”

“The student’s accomplishments are a true testament to the human spirit,” said Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Cherrell Campbell-Street. “Today celebrates their tireless work and commitment to overcoming barriers and ultimately reaching their employment goals.”

Carol Braslow, parent of former TRC student and member of the TRC Advisory Council delivered the commencement address. A student speaker, Carolyn Hayes, shared the podium during the graduation program, which took place in the center’s gymnasium.

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility and is one of eight such centers in the nation. TRC provided vocational rehabilitation services to nearly 1,100 students in FY 2013 and has an employment rate of 94 percent since 2011. Since opening its doors in 1977, the TRC has provided life and job skills training to more than 32,000 Tennesseans living with disabilities.

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Services are provided on campus and the majority of students live in residential units on the campus, while receiving services. The TRC is located at 460 9th Ave. in Smyrna, just east of the Smyrna Airport near Sam Ridley Parkway. For more information on the center, please visit <http://tn.gov/humanserv/rehab/trc.html> or call (615) 459-6811.

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